

To whom it may concern:

I was recently made aware of a Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by the NAB; the petition in question is MB 04-160, and asks that the FCC bar satellite radio from providing "local" content. I respectfully ask that you not rule in favor of NAB in this matter.

My husband and I recently purchased the XM satellite radio system for two reasons:

- 1) we frequently drive up and down the East coast from our home in the Washington, DC area, and we wanted to have continuous and varied radio service on these drives; and
- 2) we had heard many positive things about the traffic reporting provided by XM Radio, and were delighted to find out that we could get this service not only locally, but for many large metropolitan areas that are on our driving routes.

We frequently have occasion to drive to Connecticut. This trip takes us through the DC area, past Baltimore, MD and New York, NY; these are the worst parts of our drive because the traffic is so unpredictable and heavy. The thought that we could arm ourselves with the traffic knowledge for these metropolitan areas before we encountered them has been very reassuring for us. Trying to find timely traffic reports for each of these areas can be time consuming and difficult, so I am quite willing to pay \$10 every month knowing that I can get the information I need, when I need it.

I realize that it is probably not feasible for local radio stations to go to an all-traffic-24-hours-a-day format, much as local TV stations can't go to an all-weather-24-hours-a-day or all-news-24-hours-a-day format. As cable and satellite TV have shown, however, there is room for both generic and specific stations in the market. I go to CNN or the Weather Channel - a service I pay for - on my television when I have a specific need for information that isn't provided by local broadcast at a given time; I still get my local news and weather, however, from a "free" scheduled broadcast station in the evening.

While I'm finding XM radio to be a wonderful service, I don't use it exclusively for my radio needs. For example, in the Washington, DC area, radio station WTOP not only does traffic and weather, they have programming concerning local issues I can't find on other stations. XM will probably never have that kind of content, so I will still always listen to WTOP as part of my routine. I admit I may use it listen to local radio less for traffic needs, but that's because I don't have to wait for the service, and I am assured that I get clear information which covers all the areas I drive - something that local radio broadcasts sometimes can't provide. But I pay for that privilege - I know many people who would never do so, and will therefore always rely on local broadcast radio for this type of information.

Traffic may be "local" content, however, the markets that are covered by XM Radio's new traffic service are large and serve as destinations for or are in the path of many people taking business or personal

trips. If XM provides a paid service that allows people to better plan for these trips, then this information serves more customers than the people who live in the local areas in question. Please don't limit satellite radio from providing this valuable service - there's room for everyone in this market.

Respectfully,

Toni Hudzina
Falls Church, VA

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